(c) what are the details of each proposal with number of aircrafts declared by each private taxi operator and routes/regions demanded for air operation; and

(d) what are the salient features of the policy with regard to air taxi services and whether all these pending proposals are within the ambit to this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Grant of permits for scheduled/non-scheduled operations to air service operators is an on going process. At present applications for Non-scheduled operators permit of four operators are under process with Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(b) and (c) The details of applications under process are given below:—

(i) RC Aviation India (P) Ltd. has proposed to operate one Cessna 172 P aircraft with 3 passenger seating capacity.

(ii) Futura Travels Ltd. has proposed to operate with one Bell 206L4 helicopter 5-seater and one Beech King Air B-200 9 Seater.

(iii) Summit Aviation Pvt. Ltd. has proposed to operate with one Bell 47-G5-2 seater and one Cheetah helicopter 5-seater.

(iv) M.P. Flying Club, Indore has proposed to operate with 3 Cessna 152 and one Pushpak MKI aircraft.

(d) The salient features of the Policy with regard to Non-scheduled air transport services are given in Series "C" Part-III section 3 of Civil Aviation Requirements.

Poor Quality of Food in IA

1355. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served in the Indian Airlines is very poor as compared to that in the private airlines although the caterers for these airlines remain the same, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of food to be served in the Indian Airlines to be at par with that of private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (b) Indian Airlines uplifts hygienic food from the best available caterers, most of which are flight kitchen of fivestar status. A system of quality check has been introduced at major base stations by appointing flight kitchen supervisors for keeping a stringent check on quality and preparation of meals, at the premises of the caterers.

Improvement in quality is a constant process to maximise passenger satisfaction. Special efforts are also being made to improve the presentability and display of food items on the service tray.

Flight from Madurai to important cities

1356. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate flights between Madurai and other important cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At present, following scheduled air services are available to/from Madurai:

INDIAN AIRLINES

Mumbai-Chennai-Madurai and return	daily

JET AIRWAYS

Chennai-Madurai-Chennai	daily

Indian Airlines presently has no plans to link Madurai with any other city by direct services. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.